

# THIS WEEK IN PUBLIC POLICY

MARCH 11 – MARCH 15, 2019

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

## IN OHIO:

On Friday, March 15, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine released his [budget blueprint for 2020 and 2021](#). The details provided here have been taken from the proposal.

### **Department of Developmental Disabilities:**

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is proposed to receive increases in GRF and ALL Funds. Breakdowns in Fund increases are as follows:

Fund	2020 Amount	2020 % Change	2021 Amount	2021 % Change
GRF	\$717.4 Million	5.5% Increase	\$719.1 Million	0.2% Increase
All Funds	\$3.3 Billion	11.7% Increase	\$3.4 Billion	5.4% Increase

Specific mentions include:

- Increase the number of total waivers over the biennium
- Expand Ohio's Early Intervention Program (\$40 Million increase over biennium)
- Provide funding to expand employment opportunities
- Expand the use of technology to increase independence and improve quality of life.
- Partner with County Boards to increase wages for DSPs (The Blue Book explains that this increase will appear in the Medicaid Services Line item, and that the rate increase will be funded by General Revenue Fund and non-GRF sources and will be matched by counties beginning in fiscal year 2021.)

Looking more closely at the line items specific to rate increases for providers:

ALI	Name	2019	2020	2021
GRF 653407	Medicaid Services	\$76,465,883	\$81,303,334	\$78,476,411
5Z10 653624	County Board Waiver Match	\$352,700,000	\$362,680,330	\$426,668,369
5GEO	ICF/IID and Waiver Match	\$25,641,229	\$41,750,000	\$55,750,000
Total Increases			\$30,926,552	\$75,161,116

**Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities:**

Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities is proposed to receive increase in GRF and ALL Funds. Breakdowns in Fund increases are as follows:

Fund	2020 Amount	2020 % Change	2021 Amount	2021 % Change
GRF	\$17.4 Million	8.6% Increase	\$18.9 Million	8.1% Increase
ALL Funds	\$267.6 Million	14.0% Increase	279.5 Million	4.4% increase

Specific mentions include:

- Provide for modernization and improvements to blind and visually impaired Business Enterprise licensees' food service operations
- Provide funding to support vocational rehabilitation services to more than 30,000 Ohioans with disabilities annually
- Provide funding for eight Centers for Independent Living and support the Statewide Independent Living Council's efforts to coordinate and increase the impact of independent living services

**Ohio Department of Education:**

The Ohio Department of Education’s budget has proposed increases also. Specifically, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has proposed increases “due to an expected increase in federal funding to allow school districts to meet demands for special education services.” The increase in 2020 is 2.2% (Total amount is \$454,770,591) and is 0.1% in 2021 (Total amount is \$455,000,000).

Contained within the Department of Education’s budget is a subset of line-items for Special Education. The Blue Book proposes the following changes to Special Education line items:

Name	2019 Amount	2020 Amount	2020 % Change	2021 Amount	2021 % Change
Special Education Enhancements	\$42,350,000	\$42,600,000	0.6% Increase	\$42,850,000	0.6% Increase
Foundation Funding	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	0.0%	\$40,000,000	0.0%
Education of Exceptional Children	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0.0%	\$2,000,000	0.0%
Federal Education Grants	\$631,854	\$633,420	0.2% Increase	\$633,420	0.0%
IDEA	\$445,000,000	\$454,770,951	2.2% Increase	\$455,000,000	0.1% Increase
School Climate Grants	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0.0%	\$2,000,000	0.0%
Total	\$531,981,854	\$542,004,011	1.9%	\$542,483,420	0.1%

**Ohio Arts Council:**

The Ohio Arts Council is receiving a 0.3% and 0.6% increase over the biennium in ALL Funds for Arts Programming that includes Artists with Disabilities Access Program.

## **Medicaid**

In terms of the Blue Book, there is not much other than funding for Medicaid Programs and managed care organization changes that are forthcoming. During the release of the budget, Governor DeWine was asked if Medicaid Expansion (Group VIII) was proposed to be eliminated in his budget. He stated that it was not slated for cuts. Also on Friday, CMS approved Ohio's request to place work requirements on Group VIII participants.

## **Job and Family Services:**

There is a statement that OhioMeansJobs.com will be enhanced to connect more people, including people with disabilities, to businesses who are hiring through the website.

## **State Library of Ohio**

A priority listed under the State Library of Ohio is a requirement to ensure access to library materials for Ohio residents who are print-impaired due to visual or physical disabilities through the Talking Book Program

## **Ohio School for the Blind**

Ohio School for the Blind is proposed to receive increases as follows:

Fund	2020 Amount	2020 % Change	2021 Amount	2021 % Change
GRF	\$12.4 Million	18.4% Increase	\$12.6 Million	1.1% Increase
ALL Funds	\$14.1 Million	13.0% Increase	\$14.2 Million	1.0% Increase

## **Ohio School for the Deaf**

Ohio School for the Deaf is proposed to receive increases as follows:

Fund	2020 Amount	2020 % Change	2021 Amount	2021 % Change
GRF	\$13.1 Million	16.5% Increase	\$13.6 Million	3.9% Increase
ALL Funds	\$13.9 Million	12.7% Increase	\$14.5 Million	3.7% Increase

## **Treasurer of State**

The Treasurer of State's office has a budget line item to for administrative support of the STABLE Account program. This line item is flat funded (no increases or decreases).

## **Bureau of Workers Compensation**

Contained in the BWC's budget description is a statement that a new grant fund is being created to support Employers Working with People with Developmental Disabilities.

## **IN WASHINGTON:**

On Monday, March 11, 2019, President Donald Trump presented his [2020 Federal Fiscal Year Budget](#) to Congress. The proposal was not warmly received. Contained in the budget proposal for Health and Human Services is an effort, again, to impose per capita spending caps on Medicaid or through block-granting Medicaid altogether. Cuts to DD Council and other programs are also included.

## **NEXT WEEK IN PUBLIC POLICY**

**MARCH 18 – MARCH 22, 2019**

On Monday, March 18, 2019, The Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> Hearing on [House Bill 62 \(Transportation Budget\)](#). The bill, as passed by the house, provides a 10.7 cent per gallon increase in the gas tax, and provides increased funding for public transit (\$100 Million per year). The committee is hearing ALL

Testimony and amendments to the bill are expected. The hearing will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Finance Hearing Room of the Ohio Senate Building.

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, the House Finance Committee will hear testimony from Office of Budget and Management Director Kimberly Murnieks, Legislative Service Commission Director Mark Flanders, and Tax Commission Jeff McClain. This will kickoff the mad rush of state budget hearings. The hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. in Room 313 of the Ohio Statehouse. All Finance Committee hearings are also live-streamed at [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, The Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Hearing on [House Bill 62 \(Transportation Budget\)](#). All Testimony will be allowed and amendments to the bill are expected. The hearing will take place in the Senate Finance Hearing Room of the Ohio Senate Building.

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, the House Ways and Means Committee will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing on [House Bill 60 \(Diaper Sales Tax Exemption\)](#). The bill would exempt child and adult diapers from sales tax collection. ALL testimony will be accepted. The hearing will take place at 3:00 p.m. in Room 116 of the Ohio Statehouse.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019, the House Finance Committee will take testimony from Human Service Agency Directors: Maureen Corcoran (Medicaid), Kimberly Hall (JFS), Lori Criss (Mental Health and Addiction Services), Jeff Davis (Developmental Disabilities), Ursel McElroy (Aging), and Amy Acton (Health). The hearing will focus on each agency's budget proposal. The hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. in Room 313 of the Ohio Statehouse. All Finance Committee hearings are also live-streamed at [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019, the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Hearing on [House Bill 62 \(Transportation Budget\)](#). ALL Testimony will be accepted, amendments are expected, and the bill has been scheduled for a possible vote. The hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. in the South Hearing Room of the Ohio Senate Building.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019, The Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing on [Senate Bill 25 \(Medicaid Work Requirements\)](#). The bill would establish minimum work requirements and education requirements for individuals who are eligible for Medicaid as a result of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion Group VIII. The committee will only take testimony from SUPPORTERS of the proposed legislation. The hearing will take place at 2:30 p.m. in the South Hearing Room.

On Thursday, March 21, 2019, the House Finance Committee will hear testimony on the biennial budget from Paulo DeMaria (Education), Randy Gardner (Higher Education), Annette Chambers-Smith (Rehab and Corrections), and Ryan Gies (Youth Services). The

hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. in Room 313 of the Ohio Statehouse. All Finance Committee hearings are also live-streamed at [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

On Thursday, March 21, 2019, the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> Hearing (if necessary) on [House Bill 62 \(Transportation Budget\)](#). The committee will hear ALL Testimony and the bill is slated for amendments and a possible vote. Note, if the bill passes out of committee on Wednesday, this hearing will be cancelled.